

Message Text

SECRET

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71

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER:AVW

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

DOD - DDOOLIN

PM - LBROWN

NSC - BMCFARLAND

S/S - WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 073525

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, TH

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT REDEPLOYMENTS

REF: STATE 70242

1. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED THAT ONE TDY A-7 SQUADRON CURRENTLY DUE FOR NORMAL ROTATION BE REMOVED AND NOT REPLACED THUS BEGINNING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE THE TACAIR WITHDRAWALS MENTIONED REFTTEL, PARA 3 (E). WE DO NOT SEE ANY SERIOUS OBJECTION TO THIS ACTION PROVIDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE TAKEN AMISS BY THE RTG OR OTHERWISE HAVE ADVERSE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN THAILAND. WE WOULD EXPLAIN TO RTG THAT OUR PROPOSAL TO DEPART FROM OUR ORIGINAL INTENTION OF BEGINNING REDUCTIONS MAY 15 IS DUE TO PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF COST AS WELL AS MORALE AND WELFARE OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED. AN A-7 SQUADRON WAS TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED AMONG SIX TACAIR SQUADRONS TO BE REMOVED AFTER MAY 15. TO REPLACE THIS PARTICULAR SQUADRON NOW OR TO EXTEND IT FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD WOULD RESULT IN UNWARRANTED COST AND PERSONAL DISRUPTIONS FOR PERSONNEL.

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2. IDEALLY WE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THIS REDEPLOYMENT ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVER-ALL PLANNING, BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE A SCHEDULE FOR THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL PACKAGE READY FOR CONSULTATION. WHEN AND IF YOU ARE AUTHORIZED

TO RAISE THE A-7 QUESTION YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSURE THE RTG THAT THEIR VIEWS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN, WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, WE PRESENT OUR PROPOSAL ON THE OVER-ALL WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE.

3. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON TIMING AND CONSULTATION WITH RTG. KISSINGER

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NNN

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